

Reports from Councils

This paper contains the business conducted in the last round of union councils. One motion was submitted in the last round, more details on the content can be found in the minutes of each council meeting found on the [union website](#).

- **Education council 30/01/2019**

This council was featured as part of our Course Rep Conference to see more about the activity you can head [here](#).

Officers update

- **Assessment methods:** VP Education sent out a survey to all academic reps to ascertain how assessments are submitted and methods most commonly used. VP Education is lobbying for a more diverse offering of assessment methods and a push for online submission only (where possible).
- **E-learning:** Linked to the above point, VP Education also spoke about the need for the approach to lecture capture to be radically changed. You can read more about the current situation, and what the VP Education wants to do about it, [here](#).
- **Academic Restructure:** VP Education updated the room on the current position of the academic restructure. They are attending meetings to ensure that the student voice is represented in the setting up of the new structure and is working closely with the College Executive to ensure students concerns are heard.
- **Academic societies:** Working with VP Societies and Media, they are looking to create a minimum standards agreement between the society and the associated department to ensure that there is not a gulf in experience between different departments.
- **Academic rep changes:** The academic representation system will be changed in line with the new school structure. The biggest changes will be at the School/Faculty level but there will also be additional department rep positions created where needed.
- **Periodic Departmental Reviews (PDR):** PDRs, which happen every 5-6 years, are part of the process that assures students are being given a high quality educational experience on campus. The School of Management PDR occurred at the beginning of the first term and the report is being sent out to academic reps soon. The English department's PDR took place at the beginning of February. The report will be circulated to reps as soon as it is completed.

Items discussed

These items were discussed across the day.

- **Personal tutoring:** is the new system fit for purpose? Do the roles cover everything that they need to?
- **Inclusivity training:** a further round of training for academic reps to ensure they are equipped to represent as diverse a population of students as possible.
- **BAME Attainment Gap:** introducing the context of the attainment gap and discussing in groups where areas could be targeted to improve attainment and retention.

- Commuting students: update on recent research currently ongoing by RHSU and RHUL. Barriers to engagement and lecture capture discussed in detail.

Motions

- None submitted

- **Equalities Council 05/02/2019**

Officers update

- Wellbeing services: Significant attention was given to mental health as an issue, but it was acknowledged that they were failing to grasp the intricacies of minority groups
- Peer to peer mental health training: has now been delivered to 20 student groups, and will now be rolled out to permanent Students' Union staff
- Reviews of the accessibility of venues are being conducted, and improvements are being made
- letting agents forum: a big outcome has been the involvement of trading standards to deal with Alpha
- anonymous reporting platform: it is in the pipeline, but now relies on the IT department to prioritise
- BAME student researchers: three have been recruited for the TSEP research project, and results from that research will be released in April
- Current projects: working on out of hours parking on campus, Let's Talk About Sex, and encouraging people to run in the elections
- Elected representatives also gave updates on their work more detail can be found on the [website](#).

Items discussed

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Motions

- None submitted

- **Student Opportunities Council 07/02/2019**

Officer updates

- Alumni sports day – students won. RHSU due to have more of a say and impact on the event next year.
- Kit tender – DB is currently supporting ALS to push this through. Document has gone out to companies and we're currently waiting to hear back. There will be consultation before a final agreement is made.

- Varsity – thank you to everyone who got involved with the video.
- Colours Ball – 23rd March. Nominations are open – please make sure you’re nominating members.
- Disability sports day – Saturday 9th February. It is a free event for everyone to come down and enjoy! Goal Ball UK coming down to run an event and there are still spaces to get involved.
- Ratifications – 7 more societies and a sports club. So far, 15 new student groups have been ratified! If anyone is thinking to start a student group, please signpost them to Sabbatical Officers.
- Socs Ball training – PowerPoint is available online to review how to write a ‘good’ nomination. NUS Societies Awards – if you would like further information, please contact Holly.
- Byelaw H – Media charter. President and VP Societies & Media have worked closely with media outlets to ensure it is representative.
- Academic societies – first draft of minimum standards agreement is complete. There will be a consultation with students before sending it to College.
- Memorial – 28th February – College event to establish the memorial. Open to everyone to attend and show support.
- Male mental health campaign – 5 a side rugby match alongside much more. All proceeds go to the Cameron Grant Memorial Fund.

Items discussed

New Group and Group Development Fund

Deadline for the next round of applications is 22nd February. Please apply by then! Up to £300, you can send the application in direct. Anything above that will need to be discussed with the relevant Sabbatical Officer. Please visit the ‘Finance’ section on the website to find the criteria.

Cheer have had recent success with the Group Development Fund to purchase mats.

Varsity

Communications to be released in the next few weeks. Surrey are implementing a ‘Fan Zone’ after the success of the space at Royal Holloway’s event last year. If you have any ideas, please contact Dom and he can communicate it to Surrey SU.

Holly is looking to organise a banner maker ‘Crafternoon’ to create materials to show support on the day of Varsity. This is to make the event spectator friendly and increase the spectacle of the event.

Start talking to friends about the event so we can get as many spectators over as possible.

Motions

RAG chosen charities for the 1819 academic year.

Local, national and international charity each year. As Sarah is currently the only person on the RAG board, in order to decide the charities for this academic year, it needs to go to a vote at council to ensure the decision is democratic.

No one wished to speak against the vote.

- Votes for the motion: 35
- Votes against the motion: 0
- Option to abstain: 1

If you need any more information or details regarding one of the councils check the minutes via the [website](#) or contact the Student Voice team using Voice@su.rhul.ac.uk